

November 2006

Family Fun Day a Success

Over 2,400 attend 4th annual event
At Sahuaro Ranch Park in Glendale



Timothy Dunst,
CEO/President



Michael Young,
Board of Directors

Steve Ginsberg,
COO

Once again, Touchstone Behavioral Health's 4th annual Family Fun Day proved to be a great success! The event took place on October 21, 2006, between 10:00—2:00 p.m., at Sahuaro Ranch Park, in Glendale. The goal of this event was to create a community outreach day for children and families living in 'at-home' zip codes throughout the valley. Having set our sights on contacting a minimum of 2,000 families, we knew that this could not be accomplished without the work of teams of dedicated individuals who were willing to put forth their best



efforts throughout the entire event. Through this hard work and dedication we did not come up short, as a team we were able to successfully accommodate over 2,400 people!

Families had the opportunity to spend quality time and enjoy positive interactions with each other without the worry or stress of a financial burden. Children enjoyed a large variety of raffle prizes, carnival games, inflatable rides, prizes and snow sledding. A variety of food choices were provided to all in attendance by



Touchstone. Additionally, Touchstone Behavioral Health and various agencies, organizations, and community stakeholders were able to provide parents with invaluable information regarding services, and products available, many free of charge.

This event took a tremendous amount of hard work, planning, time, effort, and money. As a result of the tremendous contributions made by each individual, this important event provided an opportunity for children and families in attendance to reinforce their family bonds and values by enjoying themselves in a safe, positive, and entertaining environment.



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From the President, Timothy Dunst



THIS AND THAT

Administrative Office of the Supreme Court

The Administrative Office of the Courts is initiating a new contract monitoring protocol that should assist every agency providing scientific evidence-based services to children and adolescents who have problems within the juvenile justice system.

Named the Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP) the new monitoring program will assist agencies such as Touchstone to assure that what we do actually has some basis in scientific outcome studies. Touchstone supports this new program and the benefits it will make to the treatment of these juveniles.

The AOC has employed consultants at the Vanderbilt University to help design, implement and monitor the program.



**“A child miseducated is a child
lost.”**

John F. Kennedy

Brief Strategic Family Therapy

To increase the number of evidence-based treatment interventions, Touchstone now offers BSFT to ValueOptions and the Juvenile Courts. The new BSFT program has numerous scientific research studies that indicate that this program has proven positive outcomes with Latino families and those youth who have substance abuse problems.

The program originated at the University of Miami, Family Therapy Training Institute of Miami and now provides training and supervision to Touchstone staff. This will add another evidence-based program to the Touchstone menu of services available to youth and their families.

Family Fun Day

The Touchstone Fourth Annual Family Fun Day was held on October 21st. There were over two thousand family members in attendance at Sahuaro Ranch Park in Glendale.

The event was to celebrate families and provide them with an opportunity to enjoy themselves as a family unit. Some of our partnering families normally find it difficult to attend this kind of activity due to costs. At Touchstone's Family Fun Day everything is free.

The day was full of fun and food. I want to thank our staff and all of our sponsors, especially *ValueOptions*, without whose help and support we could not have had the success we did.

Touchstone Board Retreat

On November 10th and 11th Touchstone held its annual Board of Directors Retreat. The purpose of the retreat is to elect new officers and review the progress of the three-year strategic plan developed last year.

The new officers of the Board of Directors are:

Chair	Charles Jennings
Vice Chair	Jan Morgan
Secretary	Mary Parke
Treasurer	Jay Benn

The staff of Touchstone wishes to thank the outgoing officers for their tremendous help over the last three years.

Progress of the strategic plan was discussed and revisions were made where necessary.

Consumer Education

Parents and Child and Family Teams cannot make informed decisions about the interventions needed unless they have the proper information. To assist in the education of families and CFTs the Board of Directors of Touchstone has decided to employ consultants to assist in the education of consumers. We are now in the process of interviewing firms that can help with this. We have a start-up date of January first of next year.

E-Newsletter

The newsletter is posted on our website at www.touchstonebh.org. To receive a copy of the newsletter by e-mail, please sign up on our website.

Cultural Competency Committee

The Cultural Competency Committee would like to share with you their experiences at the Native American Awareness Event on October 14, 2006. Some were able to hear the history behind the Eagle Dance.

“The life cycle of the eagle is portrayed in the dance from life to death. The dance shows how the eagle learns to walk, hunt and feed itself and its family. It was a wonderful experience having the opportunity to be part of such a special day....”

Marlise Signorile

The Journey

*All things journey in a circle
Even our Mother Earth and Father Sun*

*It began with our ancestors
To be true to each other*

*Our Families
Our Friend
Our Relatives*

*Keeping our bonds tight
We journey together*

*In a Circle
We dance
To the rhythm of life
And the beats of our drums
We are one*

*By Jennifer Skeet,
Help Desk Technician
December 28, 2005*



What's new with the Cultural Competency Committee?

We would like to bid farewell to former committee member, Erika Collins. We wish her well in her new endeavors. We would like to welcome new members: Kaleah Cage, Gretchen Barber-Lindstrom, Jonathan Tummavichakul and Marlise Signorile.

The Cultural Competency Committee is in the process of developing a Calendar of Events for staff and families. The calendar will highlight various cultural events in the valley. If you are aware of upcoming cultural events please e-mail all information to Vernon Powell or Patty Liwanag.

“It is a dangerous thing to ask why someone else has been give more. It is humbling—and indeed healthy—to ask why you have been given so much.”

Condoleezza Rice

Employee of the Quarter



Thalia Williams,
Prevention Coordinator

Thalia Williams joined Touchstone Behavioral Health in April of 2003 as a Prevention Specialist. Over the past three years, she has exhibited the skills and ethics desirable for her position as Prevention Specialist. Because of her exceptional work, Thalia was promoted to Prevention Coordinator in July of 2006. Since this time, her leadership ability has inspired her team to passionately give their heart and soul to making others dreams come true. She has created an environment of opportunity, growth and advancement in every capacity imaginable both personally and professionally.

Along with these great attributes, she has an excellent rapport with students, parents and school officials. Thalia's professionalism is beyond reproach, as she is frank and outgoing while exhibiting a pleasant and friendly personality. She constantly searches for ways to make the Prevention Department more efficient and effective, while also familiarizing herself with other departments in order to make informed decisions and relay accurate information.

Thank you for your continuous passion that is given daily to the children and families we serve.

Vernon Powell

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Address Correction Requested

TO:

Editor's note

We welcome your feedback.
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